

REMARKS

There remains pending in this application claims 1-5, of which claim 1 is independent. No claims have been added, cancelled, or amended.

Applicants wish to express their appreciation for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the personal interview held on February 20, 2006. At that interview, independent claim 1 was discussed and it was explained by Applicants' representative that reference to "an end of the sheet" stacked on the sheet stacking unit in the concluding wherein clause of claim 1 corresponds to the trailing edge of the sheet. This feature of the charge eliminating member being contactable with an end of the sheet stacked on the sheet stacking unit is illustrated, for example, in Figure 8 where charge eliminating member 154 is shown to contact the trailing edge of the sheets stacked on the sheet stacking unit. The feature is also described in the specification at least at page 23, lines 7 through 16.

During the personal interview it was agreed that the aforementioned clarifying remarks in this formal response would overcome the rejections of record.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants' representative submit that this application has been placed in condition for allowance.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'LAH', is written over a horizontal line.

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